

Message Text

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 00822 110644Z

15
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
----- 119884

P R 080903Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 896
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

S E C R E T TAIPEI 0822

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R T E X T

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:PFOR, VS, CH, TW
SUBJECT: SPRATLEY ISLANDS

REF: A. STATE 025259; B. HONG KONG 1194. C. PEKING 193

BANGKOK FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. GIVEN OUR KEY INTEREST IN AVERTING ANY FURTHER CLASH BETWEEN RVN AND PRC ARMED FORCES, AND THE SPECIAL DANGER THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE OCCUPATION OF NEW ISLANDS IN THE SPRATLEY CHAIN NEAR THE ROC GARRISON AT ITU ABA MIGHT EASILY PRECIPITATE A PRC-ROC CONFRONTATION, THE STATEMENTS MADE IN THE DEPARTMENT TO VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR PHUONG (REF A) WOULD APPEAR PERHAPS TOO MILD. IT WOULD BE UNHELPFUL IF THE GVN SHOULD INFER FROM OUR CURRENT POSITION THAT BUT FOR CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES, USG WOULD NOT BE GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT RVN'S SPRATLEY
SECRET

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VENTURE.

2. "HANDS OFF" US POSTURE, WHICH HAS SUITED ROC-RVN-PI ASPECTS OF THIS DISPUTE, STRIKES ME AS INADEQUATE IF WE

FORESEE REAL POSSIBILITY OF PRC INVOLVEMENT (REFS B AND C). ALTHOUGH COUNTER ARGUMENTS CAN BE MADE, I RECOMMEND CONSIDERATION OF PRIATE USG APPROACH TO ALL GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, CAUTIONING AGAINST PHYSICAL ATTEMPTS TO ALTER STATUS QUO. IN TAIPEI, SAIGON, AND MANILA WE CULD NOTE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. IN PEKING WE COULD MENTION APPROACHES IN OTHER CAPITALS AND URGE RESTRAINT.
MCCONAUGHY

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TAIPEI00822
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P740146-1058
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740268/abbrzahl.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A. STATE 025259; B. HONG KONG 1194. C. PEKING 193
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPRATLEY ISLANDS
TAGS: PEPR, VS, CH, TW
To: STATE INFO SAIGON
MANILA
BANGKOK
TOKYO
HONG KONG
PEKING
CINCPAC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005